



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Power of Prophecy

Psalm 22:1-18; Romans 8:11

1. This week, we continued our sermon series on the resurrection of Jesus. Please take a moment to read this Scripture.

Luke 24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright, the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” 8 Then they remembered his words.

Discuss with your group how this Scripture affects you. Be sure to include your own thoughts and feelings about the passage.

2. In the sermon this weekend, we discussed the power of prophecy. A prophecy is a prediction made based on divine inspiration. The Old Testament contains over 400 prophecies about Jesus. All 400 prophecies were fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Psalm 22 is a good example of an Old Testament prophecy that refers to Jesus. Psalm 22 contains several direct references to Jesus and His crucifixion.

As a group, open your Bibles or phones and read aloud Psalm 22:1-18. Take time as a group to note verses from Psalm 22 that relate to Jesus. Psalm 22 was written 1,000 years before Jesus was born. Take time to discuss and process this as a group.

Please take a moment to discuss **Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds, we are healed.**

This passage from Isaiah was written 700 years before the birth of Christ. How did these prophecies about Jesus affect you personally? How would you describe the power of prophecy in your life?

3. The Bible has much to say about the resurrection and its effect on those who follow Jesus. We will end our time today by discussing two passages that talk directly about how the resurrection of Jesus should impact our lives.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

One direct effect of the resurrection is that those who follow Jesus can live with what Peter calls living hope. Believing in the resurrection of Jesus should give you hope that is alive within you. How does the resurrection of Jesus directly affect the amount of hope you have in this life and the next?

The sad thing is that some people believe in the resurrection of Jesus but do not experience living hope in their daily lives. Do you struggle to possess and live in the living hope of Jesus? Tell the story of a time when you were overwhelmed with hope or overwhelmed by the lack of hope.

4. One of my favorite verses about the effect of the resurrection on our lives is **Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

Please take a moment to consider this verse and then discuss what it means as a group.

There is no universal agreement on the meaning of Romans 8:11. Some say it is referring to what happens after we die, while others believe it is speaking to our ability to live with resurrection power every day of our earthly lives. The good news is that when we consider all the verses in the Bible, we find that both interpretations are valid. We will have a new body in Heaven, AND the Holy Spirit promises to supply us with what we need daily. How does the reality of eternal life affect you? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit supplying what you need?